



NBII Great Basin Information Project

The Great Basin Information Project provides natural resource information to a wide variety of users and stakeholders.

Background

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) <www.nbii.gov> is an electronic information network that provides access to biological data and information on our nation's plants, animals, and ecosystems. Data and information maintained by federal, state, and local government agencies; non-government organizations; and private-sector organizations are linked through the NBII gateway and made accessible to a variety of

audiences including researchers, natural resource managers, decision-makers, educators, students, and other private citizens.

Implementation of the NBII is being accomplished through the development of a network of nodes that serve as interconnected entry points to the NBII and the information held by partners. These nodes function as fully digital, distributed, and interactive systems that focus on developing, acquiring, and managing content on a defined subject area (thematic nodes) or a geographic region (regional nodes). The Great Basin Information Project (GBIP) encompasses a geographic area that overlaps three regional nodes: the Southwest Information Node, the Pacific Northwest Information Node, and the California Information Node.

Primary Issues

GBIP provides consolidated and efficient access to information about the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau regions of the Intermountain West (see map left). The unique biodiversity of the region faces potentially devastating and irreversible change as a result of



The Great Salt Lake and Promontory Point, Utah, at sunset

Photo credit: Dave Oleyar

varying land uses and the growth of human populations. A wide variety of stakeholders are involved in managing the region, and some of the realized and potential changes are tied to local or individual stakeholder decisions without a regional or cumulative understanding of the consequences.

Effective decision-making and management of the natural resources of an area as complex as the Great Basin requires ready access to scientific and educational information so that stakeholders can explore the biological diversity in this region and work together in an informed fashion. The long-term vision is for GBIP to evolve into a nationally and internationally recognized source of information about the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau.

Partnership Opportunities

The pressing land management issues and diversity of stakeholders in the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau demand cooperative efforts. We are partnering with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center



and Idaho Water Science Center, Boise State University's Raptor Research Center, and the Bureau of Land Management's Great Basin Restoration Initiative among others. The developers and managers for GBIP team up with partners to provide a backbone for the information resources needed by these groups to facilitate their efforts. Other potential partners include many local, state, and federal agencies; universities; and nonprofit organizations.

Products

GBIP is a Web-accessible gateway to biological information for the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau. Our initial focus was on the development of a Web site, a metadata server, a bibliography, and an educational Internet mapper. These four components serve as the groundwork for additional Web resources that provide immediate benefits to a wide variety of users and stakeholders. When fully implemented, the Project will provide natural resources information for much of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, and Nevada. The expanded project will be state-of-the-art, designed to serve relevant data and provide custom analytical tools.

Features

We currently serve a variety of products, including a *Metadata Server*, a queryable database that delivers spatial and tabular databases; a 3,500-record *Bibliography* that is also searchable and allows downloading of a selection of publications; and

an *Educational Internet Mapper* that provides viewing, manipulation, and printing of maps showing important natural and cultural features in the region. In 2005, we launched several additional features including:

Science Locator: A second Internet mapping application, the Science Locator is a collaboration tool designed to allow researchers and managers one-click access to information about ongoing science and management projects in the region. In a matter of seconds a user can learn the "who, what, and where" about hundreds of science research and management projects in the western United States.

Image Library: "A picture is worth a thousand words," so we've cataloged several thousand photographs of Great Basin animals, plants, and landscapes and deliver them through an easy-to-use search mechanism. The outcome is that GBIP users have access to images for presentations and photographers get proper credit for their contributions.

"Wandering" Birds of the Great Basin: Even a region as uniform as the Great Basin and Columbia Plateau can be hard to envision as an interdependent ecosystem. To show this sense of wholeness, we created an Internet-mapping tool depicting the migratory movements of several bird species including ferruginous hawk and American white pelican. Individual birds use many areas of the

region during their annual cycle and the mapper allows professionals, educators, and students alike to "see through the bird's eye" how each area of the region is critically connected to the others.

Although a prime focus of the NBII is on biological data, the GBIP is strengthened by data on geology, hydrology, geography, and the human dimension. As such, it provides a framework for increased stakeholder interaction. The establishment of the Great Basin Information Project exemplifies the NBII's role as an international leader in the dissemination of scientific information.

For More Information

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Find us on the Web at:
<<http://greatbasin.nbii.gov>>.

Rec	ID	CLASS	PRJ_STATUS	SCI_L_NAME	AGENCY_ABR
7	63	Restoration	Unknown	Pyke	USGS
9	70	Birds	Inactive	Igl	USGS
15	40	Restoration	Active	Pyke	USGS
17	46	Sage Grouse	Active	Oyler-McCance	USGS
18	48	Sage			
19	51	Bird			
20	58	Sage			
24	13	Sage			

Syntheses of literature on habitat needs and response to management of Greater Sage-Grouse and Brewer's Sparrow

As parts of the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center's series on Effects of Management Practices on Grassland Birds, literature syntheses were developed on the Greater Sage-Grouse, written by Mary M. Rowland, and Brewer's Sparrow, written by Brett Walker.

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<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/grasbird.htm>

The Science Locator database is an Internet mapping tool designed to facilitate communication and collaboration among resource scientists and managers. Users select topics and locations of interest and get abstracted project descriptions and contact information for ongoing and completed projects that match their input criteria.